

Update: Traffic Benchbook— Revised Edition, Volume 1

CHAPTER 5

Snowmobiles

5.13 Operation of Snowmobiles in Places Where Snowmobiles Are Prohibited

Effective April 22, 2003, 2003 PA 2 amended MCL 324.82126. Please replace the paragraph at the bottom of page 5-13 and all of the language on page 5-14 with the following language:

MCL 324.82126(1) provides that a snowmobile may not be operated under the following circumstances:

“(c) On the frozen surface of public waters as follows:

- (i) Within 100 feet of a person, including a skater, who is not in or upon a snowmobile.
- (ii) Within 100 feet of a fishing shanty or shelter except at the minimum speed required to maintain forward movement of the snowmobile.
- (iii) On an area that has been cleared of snow for skating purposes unless the area is necessary for access to the public water.

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“(e) Within 100 feet of a dwelling between 12 midnight and 6 a.m., at a speed greater than the minimum required to maintain forward movement of the snowmobile.

“(f) In an area on which public hunting is permitted during the regular November firearm deer season from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., except under 1 or more of the following circumstances:

- (i) During an emergency.
- (ii) For law enforcement purposes.
- (iii) To go to and from a permanent residence or a hunting camp otherwise inaccessible by a conventional wheeled vehicle.
- (iv) For the conduct of necessary work functions involving land and timber survey, communication and transmission line patrol, and timber harvest operations.
- (v) On the person's own property or property under the person's control or as an invited guest.

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“(i) Within 100 feet of a slide, ski, or skating area except when traveling on a county road right-of-way pursuant to section 82119 or a snowmobile trail that is designated and funded by the department. A snowmobile may enter such an area for the purpose of servicing the area or for medical emergencies.

“(j) On a railroad or railroad right-of-way. This prohibition does not apply to railroad personnel, public utility personnel, law enforcement personnel while in the performance of their duties, and persons using a snowmobile trail located on or along a railroad right-of-way, or an at-grade snowmobile trail crossing of a railroad right-of-way, that has been expressly approved in writing by the owner of the right-of-way and each railroad company using the tracks and that meets the conditions imposed in subsections (2) and (3). A snowmobile trail or an at-grade snowmobile trail crossing shall not be constructed on a right-of-way designated by the federal government as a high-speed rail corridor.”

A violation of any of these provisions is a misdemeanor. See MCL 324.82133.